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By

Eric L. Malagonado

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Attorney Docket No. NEKA 18.612(100806-00199)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor: Yoshihisa MATSUBARA, et al.
Serial No.: 09/840,386
Filed: April 23, 2001
Title: METHOD FOR MANUFACTURING...
Examiner: Lan Vinh
Art Unit: 1765

July 9, 2003

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

SIR:

In order to comply with discretionary rules 37 CFR §§1.97 and 1.98, attached hereto is a copy of Form PTO-1449 and copies of documents listed thereon. These documents contain information in which the Examiner may consider to be important in deciding whether to issue a patent in the instant application.

Also attached is a copy of a Japanese Office Action dated June 3, 2003 from the corresponding Japanese Patent Application. All of the documents listed in Form PTO- 1449 appear in the Japanese Office Action.

As these documents are written in a language other than English, English Language abstracts are annexed thereto explaining its relevancy in accordance with 37 CFR §1.98(a)(3).

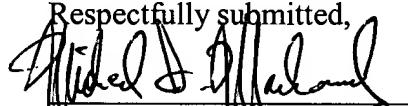
Each item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this information disclosure statement, so no fee is due.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted in compliance with 37 §CFR 1.56 as an Examiner might consider any cited document important in deciding whether to allow the application to issue as a patent, but the citation of each document is not to be construed as an admission that such document is necessarily relevant or prior art. No representation is intended that the cited documents represent the results of a complete search, and it is anticipated that the Examiner in the normal course of examination, will make an independent search and will determine the best prior art consistent with 37 CFR 1.104 (a), and in the course of such search will review for relevance every document cited on the attached form even if not initialed.

Early and favorable consideration is respectfully solicited.

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Respectfully submitted,


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1449 PTO

**U.S. Department of Commerce
Patent and Trademark Office**

Application No. : 09/840,386

Filing Date : April 23, 2001

First Named Inventor: Y. MATSUBARA

Group Art Unit : 1765

Examiner Name : L. VINH

Attorney Docket No.: NEKA 18-612

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

Sheet 1 of 1

Attorney Docket No.: NEKA 18-612

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials	Cite No. ¹	U.S. Patent Document	Kind Code if known ²	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns Lines Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
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FOREIGN DOCUMENTS

Other Prior Art-Non Patent Literature Documents

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